

This privilege we still have and you who are students of this hospital inherit it as part of the Royal tradition.

In 1927 my father in his Oration gave this advice to the students. Before I trespass too long on your time I pass it on to you:

“Words are like leaves and where they most abound  
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.”

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## BOOK REVIEW

**ANAESTHETICS, RESUSCITATION AND INTENSIVE CARE: A Textbook for Students and Residents.** By Walter Norris, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S. and Donald Campbell, M.B., Ch.B., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. (Pp. x+253; figs. 118. 30s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1965.

THE mushroom growth of independent scientific societies and the remarkable advances that have been made in all branches of medicine in the last 25 years has tended to lead to the isolation of the various medical specialities. This isolation of the speciality of anaesthetics and the administrative emphasis placed on the medico-legal hazards of the speciality has led to the complete divorce of the student and the pre-registration house officer from anaesthetic activities. The result is that a mystique surrounds anaesthetic techniques and resuscitative manoeuvres. The reader of this excellent textbook will agree that these procedures are outstandingly simple.

The book sets out to present the outlines of anaesthesia and gives a most comprehensive description of the selection and application of the various anaesthetic techniques.

The mode of action of local and general anaesthetics and the pharmacology of anaesthetic agents contained in the first two chapters would be generally regarded as dull and difficult reading in medical circles. The reader, however, who gets as far as reading these two chapters will agree that the authors have presented the subject in a most interesting, lucid and readable manner. The explanation of the pharmacological action of the various drugs is dealt with by considering their action in relation to the reasons for their use.

No other manual deals with the objects and principles of resuscitation and intensive care in so brilliant and concise a form.

It is unfortunate that the text is marred on Page 30 where Metaraminol (aramine) is described as a potent vasodepressor instead of a vasopressor.

The chapter on pre-anaesthetic examination and preparation of the patient for anaesthesia and surgery is regarded as incomplete, in that no attempt has been made to teach the student to classify his patient according to the operative risk. The classification of physical status used by the American Society of Anaesthesiologists is most useful for this purpose and could have been included with benefit.

The book is strongly commended not only for all medical students, but all doctors. It provides a perfect frame work on which the trainee anaesthetist can assemble his knowledge.

W.B.

We note that Messrs. E. & S. Livingstone of Edinburgh and London have now taken over the United Kingdom Agency for medical books published by Messrs. Williams & Wilkins of Baltimore, three books reviewed in our last issue, i.e., Bailey's 'Textbook of Histology', Milch's 'Surgery of Arthritis', and 'Manual of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy' by Palmer & Boyce are now published by them in Great Britain and not by Messrs. Balliere, Tindall & Cassell. The price of the book by Milch is £5 and not 92s.